



Birmingham & Solihull Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2025 - 2028

Easy read version



OFFICIAL

Introduction

- Birmingham City Council and Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council have carried out a **pharmaceutical needs assessment (PNA)**.
- A PNA looks at **pharmacy services** in the area and whether people's needs are being met **now and in the future**.
- PNAs must be updated every 3 years.

What did we do?

We looked at:

- The **health and wellbeing needs** of people in Birmingham and Solihull.
- What **pharmaceutical services** are available and where they are.
- What local people told us about how they **use pharmacies** and what they think of them.

What did we learn?

About Birmingham and Solihull:

- **1,361,159 people** live in Birmingham and Solihull.
- Most people live in urban areas.
- Birmingham is more deprived than most of England, while Solihull is less deprived.

About health in Birmingham:

- People in **Birmingham live shorter and less healthy lives** than the average across England.
- Health challenges in **Birmingham** include:
 - Obesity
 - Low physical activity
 - Smoking
 - Alcohol-related issues
 - Mental health issues in under-18s
 - Cancer screening and flu vaccinations
 - Loneliness and substance misuse treatment
- **Solihull** residents live longer and healthier lives than average, though flu vaccination rates for at-risk groups need improvement.

What did people tell us about pharmacy services?

- **704 people** completed a survey about pharmacy services.
- **90%** of people said they could get to a pharmacy in **20 minutes or less**.
- People from different backgrounds used pharmacies in similar ways.
- Some were concerned about the recent closure of a pharmacy in Boldmere.

About pharmacies in Birmingham and Solihull

- There are **285 community pharmacies**.
- There are 3 specialist pharmacies that provides medical appliances.
- There are 17 online pharmacies that deliver medicines to people's homes.

These pharmacies offer services like:

- Dispensing prescriptions
- Helping with new medicines
- Minor illness advice (Pharmacy First)
- Support for people with complex needs

Is there enough pharmacy support?

- The Health and Wellbeing Boards checked if the number and locations of pharmacies meet people's needs, now and in the future.
- They found that:
 - Pharmaceutical services are **well spread out** across the HWB areas
 - There are **no gaps** in services now or expected in the future

Conclusion

Most people in Birmingham and Solihull have **good access to pharmacy services**.
No gaps in pharmacy provision were found, either now or in the future.